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World Summit on Sustainable Development

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda
General debate

Letter dated 24 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Summit for Sustainable Development

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration of Huaraz on the Sustainable Development of Mountain Ecosystems, adopted at the World Meeting on Mountain Ecosystems, "Mountains to 2020: water, life and production", which was attended by representatives and experts from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, the United States of America, France, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Peru, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland and Venezuela, and was held on 14 June 2002 in Huaraz, Peru (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

(*Signed*) Marco **Balarezo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

02-50499 (E) 070802 080802

Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

[Original: Spanish]

Huaraz Declaration on the Sustainable Development of Mountain Ecosystems

Representatives and experts from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America and Venezuela, meeting in Huaraz from 12 to 14 June 2002 on the occasion of the World Meeting on Mountain Ecosystems, "Mountains to 2020: water, life and production", have drawn up the following Declaration:

Welcoming the United Nations initiative to declare 2002 the International Year of Mountains in order to create greater awareness of the importance of conserving mountain ecosystems and promoting the sustainable development of mountain populations,

Recalling previous efforts aimed at the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems, such as the proposals put forward in 1991 by the Andean countries in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; the agreements reached in the framework of the Manaus Declaration on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992; and chapter 13 of Agenda 21 (Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development) of 1992,

Recognizing the role of agencies of the United Nations system, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Focus Group on Mountains, among others, and the efforts made by various national, regional and international groups,

Combining efforts, in the process arising from the Cuzco Declaration on Sustainable Development of Mountain Ecosystems, to promote sustainable mountain development,

Joining in international processes for the sustainable development of mountains at the preparatory meetings for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa,

Conscious of the opportunities afforded by the International Year of Mountains and by the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development for advancing the environmental, economic and social agenda of mountain countries, particularly with respect to the alliances being forged in the context of that global event,

Bearing in mind that:

1. The sustainable development of mountain ecosystems in an era marked by climate change and globalization and their impact on those ecosystems requires that

all Governments combine efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources.

2. The wide diversity and extreme economic, social and environmental vulnerability of mountain ecosystems require the integrated management of water resources, life and production, with a focus on ecosystems, at the local and national levels.

3. The geographical, climatic, biological and social heterogeneity of mountain areas and the diversity of production activities require that processes that are sustainable and products that add value should be identified at the local and regional levels in order to help generate employment and alleviate poverty.

We hereby declare:

With respect to the management and sustainable use of water resources, the need to:

- Recognize that water is a common, vital and strategic asset.
- Promote integrated watershed management, recognizing the function of mountain ecosystems in water production.
- Promote local, regional and national institution-building to ensure sustainable water use.
- Promote participatory water resource management processes that give the entire population fair and equitable access to the use and benefits of water resources, recognizing the importance of indigenous, peasant and other local communities.
- Incorporate the different approaches of rural and urban populations and the various production sectors into water resources management processes.
- Contribute to recognizing the value of water produced by watersheds, particularly in mountain areas.
- Seek ways of rewarding the conservation and sustainable use of water resources.
- Promote technologies for the use of water resources that guarantee water quality and sustainability and take account of traditional uses and knowledge.
- Promote research into mountain ecosystem conservation.
- Promote, implement and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

With respect to biological and cultural diversity, the need to:

- Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, species and genetic resources in mountain areas.
- Use social and cultural diversity for the benefit of the sustainable development of mountain populations.
- Take into account the different circumstances, special characteristics and specific problems of mountain areas and the possible solutions offered by the cultural heritage of their populations, including their traditional knowledge.

- Promote education systems and the teaching of skills that are adapted to the specific living conditions of mountain areas.
- Promote exchanges of experience and know-how among mountain countries on sustainable development and vulnerability.

With respect to production processes in mountain ecosystems, the need to:

- Identify the comparative advantages of competitive, sustainable products and production chains originating in mountain areas.
- Promote in mountain areas sustainable production processes that offer greater economic and environmental benefits, as well as more equitable distribution, throughout production chains.
- Strengthen producers' associations at all levels of sustainable production chains and establish links with global markets and financing mechanisms.
- Promote sustainable tourism in mountain countries, maximizing the benefits for local populations and preserving natural and cultural heritage and values.
- Facilitate and encourage access to information and knowledge, duly coordinating and integrating traditional and modern technologies and know-how.
- Promote the local capacity-building with respect to sustainable production in mountain ecosystems, integrating knowledge and practices and encouraging the active participation of local people.
- Encourage research into the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the various production activities in mountain ecosystems.

And recommend that:

1. The Governments of mountain countries should give their backing to this Declaration.

2. Actions should be taken that are consistent with those recommended in this Declaration and with the spirit of chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcomes, with regard to mountains, of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg.

3. In an effort to establish specific commitments that contribute to the implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21, a working group on mountain ecosystems should be created, taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development for forging and strengthening alliances that coordinate the efforts of Governments and the main groups identified in Agenda 21, with a view to working together to achieve sustainable mountain development.

Huaraz, 14 June 2002

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Letter dated 6 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

We have the honour to transmit the ILA New Delhi Declaration of principles of international law relating to sustainable development (see annex), which was adopted by the International Law Association at its 70th Conference held in New Delhi from 2 to 6 April 2002, and would like to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under item 89, "Environment and sustainable development", of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Iftekhar Ahmed **Chowdhury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

(*Signed*) Arjan **Hamburger**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/CONF.199/1.

02-51607 (E) 140802

Annex to the letter dated 6 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and the Chargé d'affaires a.i of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

ILA NEW DELHI DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 70th Conference of the International Law Association, held in New Delhi, India, 2-6 April 2002,

NOTING that sustainable development is now widely accepted as a global objective and that the concept has been amply recognized in various international and national legal instruments, including treaty law and jurisprudence at international and national levels,

EMPHASIZING that sustainable development is a matter of common concern both to developing and industrialized countries and that, as such, it should be integrated into all relevant fields of policy in order to realize the goals of environmental protection, development and respect for human rights, emphasizing the critical relevance of the gender dimension in all these areas and recognizing the need to ensure practical and effective implementation,

TAKING THE VIEW that there is a need for a comprehensive international law perspective on integration of social, economic, financial and environmental objectives and activities and that enhanced attention should be paid to the interests and needs of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, and those adversely affected by environmental, social and developmental considerations,

RECALLING that in its Report on *Our Common Future* (1987), the World Commission on Environment and Development identified the objective of sustainable development as being '...to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs',

CONCERNED about growing economic and social inequalities between and within States as well as about the ability of many developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to participate in the global economy,

RECOGNIZING the need to further develop international law in the field of sustainable development, with a view to according due weight to both the developmental and environmental concerns, in order to achieve a balanced and comprehensive international law on sustainable development, as called for in Principle 27 of the Rio Declaration and Chapter 39 of Agenda 21 of the UN Conference on Environment and Development as well as in the various resolutions on legal aspects of sustainable development of the International Law Association,

AFFIRMING that consideration should be given to the interaction of States, intergovernmental organizations, peoples and individuals, industrial concerns and other non-governmental organizations as participants in multilateral development co-operation,

AWARE of the concern expressed by the UN General Assembly during its 19th Special Session in 1997 to review progress achieved since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development that 'the overall trends for sustainable development are worse today than they were in 1992'; and of the General Assembly's call 'to continue the progressive development and, as and where appropriate, codification of international law related to sustainable development',

RECOGNIZING that the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, convened by the United Nations General Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002, provides an important opportunity for addressing the role of international law in the pursuance of sustainable development,

REAFFIRMING the ILA's Seoul Declaration on Progressive Development of Principles of Public International Law Relating to a New International Economic Order, as adopted by the 62nd Conference of the International Law Association held in Seoul in 1986,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Right to Development of 1986,

TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and related documents ensuing from the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the final documents resulting from the series of world conferences on social progress for development (Copenhagen, 1993), human rights (Vienna, 1993), population and development (Cairo, 1994), small islands states and sustainable development (Barbados, 1994), women and development (Beijing, 1995), least-developed countries (Brussels, 2001) and financing for development (Monterrey, 2002), respectively,

EXPRESSES the view that the objective of sustainable development involves a comprehensive and integrated approach to economic, social and political processes, which aims at the sustainable use of natural resources of the Earth and the protection of the environment on which nature and human life as well as social and economic development depend and which seeks to realize the right of all human beings to an adequate living standard on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom, with due regard to the needs and interests of future generations,

IS OF THE OPINION that the realization of the international bill of human rights, comprising economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights and peoples' rights, is central to the pursuance of sustainable development,

CONSIDERS that the application and, where relevant, consolidation and further development of the following principles of international law relevant to the activities of all actors involved would be instrumental in pursuing the objective of sustainable development in an effective way:

1. The duty of States to ensure sustainable use of natural resources

1.1 It is a well-established principle that, in accordance with international law, all States have the sovereign right to manage their own natural resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause significant damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

1.2 States are under a duty to manage natural resources, including natural resources within their own territory or jurisdiction, in a rational, sustainable and safe way so as to contribute to the development of their peoples, with particular regard for the rights of indigenous peoples, and to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment, including ecosystems. States must take into account the needs of future generations in determining the rate of use of natural resources. All relevant actors (including States, industrial concerns and other components of civil society) are under a duty to avoid wasteful use of natural resources and promote waste minimization policies.

1.3 The protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment, particularly the proper management of climate system, biological diversity and fauna and flora of the Earth, are the common concern of humankind. The resources of outer space and celestial bodies and of the sea-bed, ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction are the common heritage of humankind.

2. The principle of equity and the eradication of poverty

2.1 The principle of equity is central to the attainment of sustainable development. It refers to both *inter-generational equity* (the right of future generations to enjoy a fair level of the common patrimony) and *intra-generational equity* (the right of all peoples within the current generation of fair access to the current generation's entitlement to the Earth's natural resources).

2.2 The present generation has a right to use and enjoy the resources of the Earth but is under an obligation to take into account the long-term impact of its activities and to sustain the resource base and the global environment for the benefit of future generations of humankind. 'Benefit' in this context is to be understood in its broadest meaning as including, *inter alia*, economic, environmental, social and intrinsic benefit.

2.3 The right to development must be implemented so as to meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations in a sustainable and equitable manner. This includes the duty to co-operate for the eradication of poverty in accordance with Chapter IX on International Economic and Social Co-operation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as well as the duty to co-operate for global sustainable development and the attainment of equity in the development opportunities of developed and developing countries.

2.4 Whilst it is the primary responsibility of the State to aim for conditions of equity within its own population and to ensure, as a minimum, the eradication of poverty, all States which are in a position to do so have a further responsibility, as recognized by the Charter of the United Nations and the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, to assist States in achieving this objective.

3. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities

3.1 States and other relevant actors have common but differentiated responsibilities. All States are under a duty to co-operate in the achievement of global sustainable development and the protection of the environment. International organizations, corporations (including in particular transnational corporations), non-governmental organizations and civil society should co-operate in and contribute

to this global partnership. Corporations have also responsibilities pursuant to the polluter-pays principle.

3.2 Differentiation of responsibilities, whilst principally based on the contribution that a State has made to the emergence of environmental problems, must also take into account the economic and developmental situation of the State, in accordance with paragraph 3.3.

3.3 The special needs and interests of developing countries and of countries with economies in transition, with particular regard to least developed countries and those affected adversely by environmental, social and developmental considerations, should be recognized.

3.4 Developed countries bear a special burden of responsibility in reducing and eliminating unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and in contributing to capacity-building in developing countries, *inter alia* by providing financial assistance and access to environmentally sound technology. In particular, developed countries should play a leading role and assume primary responsibility in matters of relevance to sustainable development.

4. The principle of the precautionary approach to human health, natural resources and ecosystems

4.1 A precautionary approach is central to sustainable development in that it commits States, international organizations and the civil society, particularly the scientific and business communities, to avoid human activity which may cause significant harm to human health, natural resources or ecosystems, including in the light of scientific uncertainty.

4.2 Sustainable development requires that a precautionary approach with regard to human health, environmental protection and sustainable utilization of natural resources should include:
(a) accountability for harm caused (including, where appropriate, State responsibility); (b) planning based on clear criteria and well-defined goals;
(c) consideration in an environmental impact assessment of all possible means to achieve an objective (including, in certain instances, not proceeding with an envisaged activity); and
(d) in respect of activities which may cause serious long-term or irreversible harm, establishing an appropriate burden of proof on the person or persons carrying out (or intending to carry out) the activity.

4.3 Decision-making processes should always endorse a precautionary approach to risk management and in particular should include the adoption of appropriate precautionary measures.

4.4 Precautionary measures should be based on up-to-date and independent scientific judgment and be transparent. They should not result in economic protectionism. Transparent structures should be established which involve all interested parties, including non-state actors, in the consultation process. Appropriate review by a judicial or administrative body should be available.

5. The principle of public participation and access to information and justice

5.1 Public participation is essential to sustainable development and good governance in that it is a condition for responsive, transparent and accountable governments as well a condition for the active engagement of equally responsive, transparent and accountable civil society

organizations, including industrial concerns and trade unions. The vital role of women in sustainable development should be recognized.

5.2 Public participation in the context of sustainable development requires effective protection of the human right to hold and express opinions and to seek, receive and impart ideas. It also requires a right of access to appropriate, comprehensible and timely information held by governments and industrial concerns on economic and social policies regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment, without imposing undue financial burdens upon the applicants and with due consideration for privacy and adequate protection of business confidentiality.

5.3 The empowerment of peoples in the context of sustainable development requires access to effective judicial or administrative procedures in the State where the measure has been taken to challenge such measure and to claim compensation. States should ensure that where transboundary harm has been, or is likely to be, caused, individuals and peoples affected have non-discriminatory access to the same judicial and administrative procedures as would individuals and peoples of the State in which the harm is caused.

6. The principle of good governance

6.1 The principle of good governance is essential to the progressive development and codification of international law relating to sustainable development. It commits States and international organizations:
(a) to adopt democratic and transparent decision-making procedures and financial accountability;
(b) to take effective measures to combat official or other corruption;
(c) to respect the principle of due process in their procedures and to observe the rule of law and human rights; and
(d) to implement a public procurement approach according to the WTO Code on Public Procurement.

6.2 Civil society and non-governmental organizations have a right to good governance by States and international organizations. Non-state actors should be subject to internal democratic governance and to effective accountability.

6.3 Good governance requires full respect for the principles of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as well as the full participation of women in all levels of decision-making. Good governance also calls for corporate social responsibility and socially responsible investments as conditions for the existence of a global market aimed at a fair distribution of wealth among and within communities.

7. The principle of integration and interrelationship, in particular in relation to human rights and social, economic and environmental objectives

7.1 The principle of integration reflects the interdependence of social, economic, financial, environmental and human rights aspects of principles and rules of international law relating to sustainable development as well as of the interdependence of the needs of current and future generations of humankind.

7.2 All levels of governance – global, regional, national, sub-national and local – and all sectors of society should implement the integration principle, which is essential to the achievement of sustainable development.

7.3 States should strive to resolve apparent conflicts between competing economic, financial, social and environmental considerations, whether through existing institutions or through the establishment of appropriate new institutions.

7.4 In their interpretation and application, the above principles are interrelated and each of them should be construed in the context of the other principles of this Declaration. Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed as prejudicing in any manner the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rights of peoples under that Charter.

NEW DELHI, 6 APRIL 2002.

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Letter dated 5 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

With reference to the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and in my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of August 2002, I am transmitting to you herewith the text of the League of Arab States Initiative on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, adopted at the League's high-level meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, on 30 and 31 July 2002, for approval as a type-2 initiative and for circulation as a document of the Summit.

(*Signed*) Fuad Mubarak **Al-Hinai**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

* A/CONF.199/1.

02-51627 (E) 130802 130802

Annex to the letter dated 5 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

[Original: Arabic]

Initiative on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

Since the 1992 Rio Summit there have been concrete achievements in the Arab region in the sustainable development field, specifically in health and education and with regard to standards of living. There are, however, also a number of obstacles facing the Arab countries in the further promotion of sustainable development, and they include the absence of peace and security, continued foreign occupation of some Arab territories, poverty, illiteracy, population growth, the burden of indebtedness, the aridity of the region and its limited arable land and water resources, the limited capacities of academic research centres and the fact that experience of civil society is comparatively new.

With the adoption of the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development in Cairo on 25 October 2001, the League of Arab States, acting through the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and the other specialized ministerial councils and in cooperation with the inter-Arab, regional and international organizations, took an integrated regional approach to the development of the Regional Programme of Action for Sustainable Development. The League expects the international community to help the Arab countries to meet the challenges and overcome the obstacles peculiar to the region. It welcomes the readiness shown by the international community to implement Agenda 21 and achieve the development goals set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

This Initiative seeks to meet the challenges facing the Arab States in achieving sustainable development. It affirms their commitment to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the achievement of the development goals set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable Development while taking account of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It endeavours to promote the more active and forceful participation of the Arab States so as to highlight their efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially in the light of globalization and its impact, and create a mechanism to fund environmental protection programmes and achieve sustainable development.

This Initiative provides a general framework for the programmes and activities that can be implemented with the resources available to the Arab States, the inter-Arab, regional and international organizations concerned and the inter-Arab, regional and international financial institutions, by building partnerships with other regions and groupings and international organizations and institutions in the global context for the achievement of sustainable development and with the participation of all partners at all national and regional levels and, in particular, of civil society, including the media. In the areas listed below, the Initiative has the following goals:

Peace and security

To create, in order to consolidate the progress of sustainable development, an appropriate environment at the regional level to promote the achievement of peace and security, including an end to occupation and the abandonment of threats of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other States, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the norms of justice;

To protect the environment and natural resources of peoples under occupation and restore the economic and social structures destroyed by the occupation;

Institutional framework

To support and strengthen institutional structures in the field of sustainable development in the Arab countries by, inter alia, developing and implementing the necessary policies and laws;

To support the efforts of the League of Arab States to construct a mechanism to address sustainable development at the regional level;

Poverty eradication

To support, especially by funding small-scale projects, regional, subregional, national and local programmes and plans of action and technical and institutional cooperation in order to mitigate severe poverty, special attention being paid to the role of women;

Population and health

To promote the development of integrated population policies, improve primary health care services and enhance advocacy programmes for family planning and child and maternal welfare;

To support efforts to improve the health of the population by providing clean water, safe food and sanitation services and by controlling hazardous chemicals and all forms of pollution;

Education, advocacy, scientific research and transfer of technology

To support the development of national strategies and programmes for education and literacy as part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty; and to support the achievement of the internationally approved targets for education, including those stipulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

To encourage the transfer and absorption of appropriate technology to and within the Arab region; to develop Arab scientific and technological research capacities and institutions in order to meet the challenges confronting the Arab region; to make use of the relevant technical support made available by international institutions and organizations; and to urge the industrialized countries to meet their obligations in this regard under the relevant international agreements;

To support the development of an information technology system by means of complementary initiatives; and to provide a suitable environment to attract investment in this field to the Arab region;

To encourage initiatives for the consolidation of national and regional capacities in the field of environmental information, such as the 2002 Abu Dhabi Initiative on Environmental Information;

To encourage Arab award programmes relating to the environment and sustainable development, such as the Zayed International Prize for the Environment and the Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation;

Resource management

To encourage the integrated management of water resources, including river basins and catchment areas, in accordance with the norms of international law and existing agreements; to develop legislation; and to increase the benefit derived from ongoing activities at sources, along watercourses and at outlets;

To protect water sources, including groundwater and wetlands ecosystems, from contamination; to support efforts to develop alternative water sources; and to take action to develop new seawater desalination, rainwater collection and water recycling techniques;

To support the development and implementation of national policies and programmes for agricultural research, especially in agricultural methods appropriate to the region and harvesting techniques for arid lands;

To support regional, subregional and national implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through the mechanisms in place in the region for the development and implementation of existing programmes of action;

To urge the international community to augment the efforts of the Arab countries to apply integrated management strategies to their coastal areas, given the concentration of populations in coastal areas in the Arab region and the importance of the implementation in the region of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and other regional seas programmes for the protection and conservation of the marine environment and biological diversity;

To call upon the international community to augment the efforts of the Arab States for the sustainable development of their mountainous regions, for afforestation and reforestation and for capacity-building for the sustainable management of mountains and forests;

To urge the international community to augment the efforts of the Arab States to develop a regional programme for the protection of biological diversity that would include the establishment of a regional gene bank and the implementation in the region of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

To urge the international community to augment the efforts of the Arab States to deal with the deterioration of air quality in many Arab cities by means of urban planning strategies, the designation of land-use zones, emissions control

programmes and the construction of regional and subregional sustainable transport systems and networks;

To urge the international community to augment the efforts of the Arab States to institute sound chemical management, with particular focus on hazardous chemicals and wastes, by means of initiatives to help the Arab countries to establish national registers of chemicals, elaborate regional and national frameworks and strategies for the management of chemicals and designate national contact points on chemicals;

To promote the wider use of safe and clean production machinery and techniques, the cleaner and more efficient use of oil and natural gas, and the establishment of carbon sinks by planting forests;

To bolster Arab capacities for the implementation of the multilateral environmental conventions and their mechanisms with the technical and material support of the international community;

To urge the industrialized countries to meet their obligations under the international environment conventions by agreeing to eliminate all forms of subsidies to the energy sector, specifically to coal and nuclear power, and all kinds of tax discrimination against petroleum products;

To secure technical assistance in order to strengthen the capacities of the Arab States, including the human and institutional capacities required for effective disaster management and monitoring and early-warning systems;

Consumption and production

To promote the concept of patterns of sustainable production and consumption in the Arab region; and to encourage the use of products that help protect natural resources;

Globalization, trade and investment

To urge the international community to reinforce the efforts of the Arab States to avoid the adverse consequences globalization has for them at the technological, economic, environmental and social levels;

To step up Arab efforts to improve intermediary trade by strengthening and promoting the greater Arab free trade zone;

To improve the competitiveness of Arab goods; and to endeavour to have the industrial countries abolish all the subsidies, supports and restrictions that impede the entry of Arab goods into international markets;

To anticipate that the membership of the Arab States in the World Trade Organization will be facilitated and accelerated and that intensified international efforts to expand and diversify its economic base will be required;

To create a good Arab investment climate that encourages international and regional institutions to increase investment in the Arab States.

The Arab Initiative calls for support for partnership initiatives between developing and industrialized countries and for partnerships between States and civil-society organizations and the private sector, on the understanding that such partnerships should be fair and non-selective and that they should not have political or economic conditions.

The programme of action to implement the Initiative will be elaborated in accordance with the provisions of the 2000 Jeddah Declaration on the Environment from an Islamic Perspective, the 2001 Abu Dhabi Declaration on the Future of Environmental Action in the Arab World, the 2002 Abu Dhabi Declaration on Agricultural Development and Desertification Control, and the 2002 Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development. The results of the relevant regional and international conferences and seminars will be taken into consideration, such as the decisions of the 2001 Oman International Forum on Environment and Sustainable Development, the 2002 Dubai Declaration on the Integrated Management of Water Resources in Arid Regions, and the 2002 Muscat Declaration on the Oman International Conference on Development and the Management of Watercourses.

There are three fields that have been given priority for implementation. In cooperation with the relevant inter-Arab and regional organizations, the identification of projects is currently under way, and they will be implemented within the programme for the integrated management of water resources, the programme for the management of land degradation and desertification control and the programme for the integrated management of coastal areas. The three programmes and the projects will be ready for adoption by the regional mechanisms in late October 2002.

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Letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Regional Workshop on Capacity-Building in Governance and Public Administration for Sustainable Development in Countries with Economies in Transition, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 29 to 31 July 2002 (see annex).**

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

(*Signed*) Michael C. **Daratzikis**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/CONF.199/1.
** The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

02-52909 (E) 190802

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING IN GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

Thessaloniki, Greece, 29-31 July

Workshop Report

General Assembly Resolution A/RES/50/225 of 1 May 1996 underscored the need for improved efficiency of public institutions, administrative procedures and sound financial management to harness the global challenges in support of sustainable development in all countries. Creating and strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable development was emphasized in the Report of the Secretary-General "Implementing Agenda 21" (E/CN.17/2002/PC.2). The report also underlined the significance of involving civil society, academia and business community. The workshop on "*Capacity-Building in Governance and Public Administration for Sustainable Development*" targeted public administrators and NGO representatives from countries with economies in transition (Baltic, Central and South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasian and Central Asia) and also from Greece and Turkey. These regions face a challenge of making their public institutions fully equipped to achieve the goals of sustainable development (SD) in their countries.

Efforts must be undertaken to promote better understanding, propose enabling means to foster SD and equitable economic and human development. The world has seen a change both in the concept and approaches to development. Human beings are at the core of SD, as agents for their self-empowerment and for ensuring the sustainability of the environment, in which they live and act. Progress towards SD in this region has not taken a linear path since 1992. SD efforts have been slowed and in some cases interrupted by financial crises, environmental and natural disasters, armed conflicts and some of the negative consequences of globalization.

An overriding challenge is how the participating countries can move towards SD in practice; how they can take action and move on to implementation. Actual interventions will vary greatly within the region depending on geographic location, natural resource base, levels of social and economic development and physical and political infrastructures. Some concerns of SD are most effectively dealt with internally, others have a potential for more regional cooperation and still others are most appropriately dealt with through international cooperation. The region can serve as an example to others from the richness of its cultural and the sustainable livelihoods that it does practice and vie to improve.

Civil society and policy makers have an increasing understanding of the need to harmonize economic development, social development strategies and regulations. Human and institutional capacity-building in public administration is essential to implement sound policies for SD.

II. Executive Summary

The Workshop on Capacity-Building in Governance and Public Administration for Sustainable Development in Countries with Economies in Transition was organized and administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Division for Public Economics and Public Administration (DPEPA) at the United Nations Thessaloniki Centre (UNTC) in Greece from 29 to 31 July 2002.

After brief welcoming words on behalf of UNDESA focusing on the objectives of the capacity-building programme for countries with economies in transition, the outcomes of the Thessaloniki workshop and the importance of its preparation as contribution of the region in Johannesburg, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations underlined the main thematic areas and implications of the Johannesburg Summit for governments, public service and civil society.

Seventy-three participants attended the meeting, including 47 representatives from 26 countries (24 government officials and 23 NGO representatives), representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, ECE and UNDP, and representatives from two regional organizations (CIS, NISPAcee) and from OECD. (See list of participating Countries and Organizations in Annex 1.)

The participants in the workshop discussed the major challenges and opportunities faced by decision makers in the area of SD. Therefore, the participants acquired the knowledge to review their national SD strategies and identify which initiatives might be undertaken for their realization. Leading experts presented papers on governance and public administration key issues and role for SD as well as the work of DPEPA in this field. The workshop also emphasized the importance of strengthening and building institutions, and developing human capacities for countries with economies in transition in order to meet the challenges of the third millennium. This will help them achieve their objectives towards poverty alleviation, sustained economic growth and SD through reinforced public administration systems and cross-sector integrated and participatory strategies and policies.

During the meeting, the main conclusions and recommendations focused on the main issues, challenges and possible solutions for better governance and SD at the national, local, sub-regional and regional levels, in particular, in relation to:

- Institutional structures;
- Functions, roles and responsibilities of actors and stakeholders;
- Mechanisms, procedures, methodologies and guidelines for design, coordination, coherence, consensus-building, dialogue, follow-up, evaluation and monitoring of policies, programmes and projects for SD;
- Laws, rules, performance indicators, ethics and diversity, management;
- Human resources development and management;
- Exchange of experiences, capacity-building and UN technical cooperation programme on governance, public administration and SD for both government agencies and NGOs of the region.

III. Opening Session

The representative of the Secretary-General focused his opening remarks on the main thematic areas and implications of the Johannesburg Summit for the government, public service and civil society. After a brief presentation on the Summit, and in the broader context of United Nations conferences and summits including Doha and Monterey stressing the international community's high expectations, the SG representative pointed out the importance of the commitment to good governance in order to achieve SD. He emphasized the challenges of the region taking into account the different national contexts, especially poverty and inequities as well as patterns of production and consumption that bear on SD. Finally he presented the five following selected strategic areas for SD: Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity.

The Secretary-General for Environmental Affairs of Greece pointed to the importance of the Johannesburg Summit as a major event for all countries including the CIS countries. He thanked the United Nations for taking the initiative of organizing this workshop and stressed the importance of the countries of the region to meet in a multi-dimensional framework:

- SD from the Johannesburg Summit perspective;
- Governance including global environmental governance;

- **Public administration to develop and implement strategies for SD.**

Within this critical framework, Greece will assume the EU presidency in January 2003 and support initiatives, which contribute positively to peace, to the respect of human beings, to the environment, and to the well being of future generations. Greece has already defined a national strategy for SD and actively contributes to the definition of the European strategy. The development of effective global governance mechanisms, and the contribution of civil society are essential. Greece, as a EU and OECD member and on account of its geographical position and substantive regional cooperation is actively involved in the development of these issues at the European, Mediterranean and Balkan regional levels. Working closely with the European Commission, the Greek Ministry for Environment hosted in Athens the second Ministerial Conference for Environmental Issues. The Athens Declaration that was adopted on 10 July 2002 by the Conference will be the platform for extensive cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

The Turkish Vice Minister of Environment expressed her appreciation to UNDESA for its efforts in organizing this very important workshop and to the Government of Greece for hosting it. She mentioned her delight at co-chairing this big event with her Greek colleague. The most prominent agenda item to be discussed or negotiated during the Summit of Johannesburg is the cross-sectoral issues, with the highest priority in implementing SD targets. Among these cross-sectoral issues, governance, more specifically "good governance," is at the top of the agenda. Today, it has been well understood that SD is not an issue that can be taken in isolation without considering governance and public administration. Successes or failures in governance and public administration will directly affect SD policy as well as other national policies and actions. A consensus on economic and social aspects is very important. She shared her country's experience in partnership with NGOs for SD, which, among other things, produced national report for both civil society and public administration to be presented at Johannesburg. Finally, she expressed her strong belief that this distinguished group will realize a very successful workshop.

IV. Country Reports

Representatives of governments and NGOs from 21 countries presented brief reports on governance, public administration, partnership and sustainable development. The participants provided their perspectives on the progress achieved and the obstacles and challenges faced by their countries, major constraints, on SD as well as proposals for action to address the specific issues identified. Several countries presented also success stories especially in the framework of local Agenda 21 that could be shared with other countries and extended at cross-boundary level.

In his sum-up of the session, the representative of the Secretary-General described sustainable development as a journey rather than a destination. So far, this journey has not been long; Stockholm was the point of departure, in 1972. In 30 years, however, since 1972, the world has rediscovered "sustainable development" in light of past mistakes, and newly emerging concerns. When it all started, most countries still adhered to an approach, which fully accorded priority to economic growth, with heavy industry stressed in many of the countries, currently described as economies in transition. An important side effect of this approach was the serious aggravation of the problem of pollution of land and water resources with resulting degradation of the environment in many parts of the world. Growing scepticism about the prospects of unlimited progress led to the necessity of more sustainable patterns of production and consumption to establish and to maintain a better equilibrium between human activity and the demands it makes on the eco-system on the one hand, and what the eco-system is able to sustain on the other. This

has also to secure a better distribution of the benefits of economic activity within and between countries throughout the world in the wake of globalisation.

The transition to a market economy was pursued by the countries of the region in various ways and at a different pace. The complex transition process brought a new set of problems such as aggravation of poverty, income disparities and unemployment; the consequent deterioration of basic social services like health, education and welfare; high levels of insecurity in areas ravaged by conflicts and decline of law and order; the rise of corruption and organized crime and their effects on the credibility of the institutions of government.

Development is now seen as multi-dimensional, calling for pressing reforms especially with the political changes, which the advent of democracy and competitive markets have brought in their wake. With these changes, conventional structures of government no longer prove sufficient. The emergence of a vibrant civil society is gradually changing the environment in which governments work. It demands new structures, new approaches and a new style of governance with greater decentralization and regulation in the exercise of power, as well as financial resources to local communities and NGOs; information, consultation and participation of citizens; closer coordination of government agencies in policy decisions on cross-sectoral problems. Some conventional structures remained with a modified role, while new structures have come into being. Most of the countries have established a Ministry of the Environment and/or Commission(s) on SD.

The need and opportunities for regional cooperation have given rise to numerous inter-governmental agencies. In East and Central Europe and the CIS examples of this trend can be found in every field and every part of the region: the process "Environment for Europe", the Caspian Ecological Programme, Black Sea Cooperation Agency, Baltic 21 for cross-Baltic cooperation, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, Caucasus and Central Asia and, finally, the Mediterranean Action Programme.

Everywhere, coordination presents itself in two directions: Horizontal coordination among agencies of government; and vertical coordination between agencies of government and/or NGOs operating on the national, sub-national and international levels. The majority of countries are currently engaged in complex negotiation on membership of either regional pacts (e.g. European Union, OECD and NATO) or global organization like WTO. Some countries are already full members of these organizations. All countries have been involved in preparatory work for the Johannesburg Summit and/or the implementation of Agenda 21. Local agendas 21 have been mainly developed and monitored by NGOs. Such new more complex structures and multi-stakeholder approaches are making new demands on government and NGOs, which many are ill-prepared to meet. New legal and institutional frameworks need to be developed or refined, which both work more effectively and inspire greater confidence among the people at large and the private sector, nationally and internationally. Strategies and structures, which secure integrity, transparency and accountability in all government activities and all levels, are urgently needed. Respect for the rule of law has also been emphasized during the past decade after years of relative neglect. Increasingly, SD has come to embrace concerns, which lie at the intersection of many different fields: politics, administration, economics, health, education, culture, science, technology and the environment. Coping with these concerns, whether at the national, sub-national or international levels, calls for high-level skills and competencies and important human resources development (HRD).

What both the country reports and the ensuing discussion brought into sharp relief are the scope and possibilities for regional and sub-regional approaches in meeting this new challenge. Technical cooperation is taking on new forms, some using cutting edge information technology.

Networks have been developed (e.g. NISPAcee), which bring together institutes and schools of public administration from the region.

The Workshop demonstrated the existence of common concerns, which can be properly dealt with through technical cooperation on the international, regional and sub-regional levels. Sub-regional activities have started and need to be strengthened with support from the United Nations. They are particularly useful in light of the diversity of conditions and needs in the region. The country reports provided a clear outline of the efforts made in governance, public administration and SD. Characteristic features of these efforts are:

- The manner in which countries have adopted the concept of SD. This demonstrates the importance that they attach to the issue of governance and public administration, and their commitment to continue their efforts to strengthen their capacity for governance;
- The degree of involvement of civil society actors and the NGO community. All participants acknowledged the importance of involving multi-partners in the analytical and policy-making processes as well as in the implementation of these decisions;
- The importance of information/knowledge sharing and drawing lessons from each others' experiences was emphasized. In this regard the role of UNTC and DPEPA/DESA was underlined;
- The utilization of partnerships both within nations and among nations with the participation of multiple stakeholders;
- The specific circumstances of each country indicate clearly that the basic issues/problems in pursuit of SD were more common than divergent;
- There was an agreement on the basic approaches to address the different challenges faced by each country, which are striving for SD through strong consensus building and multisectoral / multi-stakeholder participatory policies;
- The ongoing regional cooperation arrangements augured well for SD progress;
- The importance of coordination with EU was stressed by some participants;
- The importance of national efforts to implement Agenda 21 including the ways of strengthening them;
- The role of media and the necessity of building journalists' capacity to report on and provide in depth analysis of SD issues, including success stories and innovative experiences.

A complete set of the country reports, including the country recommendations, will be posted in the United Nations Online Public Administration Network (UNPAN) (www.unpan.org).

V. Governance Issues and Public Administration Role: Institution-Building and Human Resources Development Strategies for Sustainable Development

During the afternoon, plenary session II provided three presentations on (1) the foundations of good governance, decentralization and capacity-building; (2) the critical role of integrated policy development for sustainable development; and (3) current approaches to human resource development for a strong and effective public administration.

The first presentation presented the basic "foundation" principles, assumptions and best practices of good governance, decentralization and appropriate capacity-building for the first decade of the twenty-first century. Before the 1990s, the topic of good governance was rarely broached by international agencies, few nations of this region were venturing to reform or decentralize their

administrations, and "capacity-building" focused narrowly on training and institution building. Based on the powerful concepts and practices of accountability, transparency, predictability, and participation, **good governance** is now universally accepted as an essential precondition to nations' abilities to introduce and achieve an important measure of SD. Decentralization, as defined by the European Charter of Local Self-Government as well as the CIS Declaration on the issue, is playing a key role to bring public programmes and services closer to the people, especially in key environmental areas such as water provision. Indeed local governments are showing more practical progress with SD than the national level. Decentralization does not weaken the centre in order to strengthen local units, but empowers the entire system, by separating the responsibility for detailed implementation (local level) from the important functions of policy development and standard setting for the central administration. Within the newly emerging multi-polar context of participatory, transparent and decentralized administration and government, a broad understanding of **capacity-building** has emerged, one that stresses the creation and enhancement national abilities to define and achieve their own goals. The needed skills include networking, facilitation, conflict resolution, strategic problem solving and effective policy-formulation. Although such skills can be enhanced through training workshops, they are only truly acquired through experience. The presentation concluded by stressing the need for optimism in the region regarding progress in good governance for SD. Progress and a growing commitment to these basic principles and practices, even if slow, are evident in almost every country of the region and can reach a critical mass.

The second presentation dealt with institution-building strategies, prerequisites for effective implementation of SD. Good governance and sound public administration are preconditions for this implementation. They include respect for human rights and the rule of law; efforts to ensure an ethical and more transparent government process, and decision-making practices open to citizens. So far, the usual response to how to integrate an emerging issue in the policy debate has been to create new institutions. But beyond institutional changes SD also requires specific initiatives to better integrate economic, environmental and social goals within the mandate of each existing institution and within government as a whole. An important issue is *how* to advance this "integration agenda". The presentation stressed that central government agencies have a role to play in guiding, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the SD agenda, which should be integrated into the regular policy process. Longer-term budgeting and sound regulatory instruments are important tools for this integration. Innovative decision-making mechanisms and policy processes associating the private and public sectors as well as NGOs, are also in demand. Managing knowledge for SD is also extremely challenging to raise awareness in different constituencies and to increase the visibility of the SD concept in and outside of government (including in the media). It is crucial to ensure that sufficient debate occurs on values, perceptions and views in order to make decisions more universally acceptable.

The third presentation stressed the important role of HRD in strengthening the public administration's crucial role in leading environmental governance. SD of human resources encompasses a critical institutional dimension that includes the creation and maintenance of an enabling framework to attract, retain, develop and motivate the needed competent people and to direct their energies towards the public interest. This includes all public servants at all levels of government: national, sub-national, and international, and the personnel of NGOs and civil society organizations as well to service long-term public or general interest. To raise performance standards throughout the public service and to enhance its prestige, professionalism is essential. It needs a degree of separation of public service management and HRD from both political activities and profitable pursuits. To make its yield sustainable, HRD must target all the qualities representing the profile of a true professional, namely substantive knowledge and high ethical values and standards. It must aim to reinforce the independent judgment of public service professionals coupled with accountability. Human resources management and development must

reflect and fit the conditions and needs of particular countries, which differ in many respects. One of the basic requirements in every country, accordingly, is for enhanced capacity for making policy choices, for policy design and policy implementation. Another pressing need is high-level capacity in performance measurement, monitoring evaluation. To enhance the overall quality of HRD and training, and make it cost-effective, the countries of the region should avail themselves of all the opportunities offered by the presence and the activities of the United Nations and other regional and sub-regional centres in the region.

Several delegates participated in the discussion as well as the representative of a regional NGO regarding the challenges of HRD. The greater utilization of modern information and communication technology in support of life long learning is essential. Governments need to take the leadership in moving their countries from the old classroom model to the new model of ICT-based continuing education in order not to lag behind in ICT' s utilization. The importance of improving and strengthening the state administrative apparatus and the systems of governance was also stressed. HRD must take into account exogenous pressures such as persistent diseases and other problems. Also, it was reminded that in many countries of the region, governance needs to be more rural focused, including strengthening local government's capacity. Good governance in many countries must include actions to overcome ethnic and religious barriers and tensions.

The following issues and proposals related to governance were also presented:

- The need to develop the capacity to generate bankable projects. Availability of seed money for the early stages of project development is essential.
- The important problem regarding NGO sustainability, as most NGOs remain financially dependent on a single or narrow range of support. Training programmes for NGOs on resource mobilization should be given a high priority, if they have to play a full and independent role in governance.
- The pressure to expand many successful local Agenda 21 projects to a national scale. However, such national projects will require an entirely different management approach than the small pilots they are replicating.
- The poor coverage of SD and especially of SD success stories by the region's media. This problem could be addressed through training packages to assist journalists to develop their analytical and reporting abilities regarding environmental issues.
- The need for more learning-by-doing and interactive training in addition to the seminar mode.

VI. The Johannesburg Conference: Main thematic areas, agenda, structure and processes.

The participants discussed the current status of preparations for the World Summit on SD, as well as particular concerns and challenges faced by countries with economies in transition with respect to the Johannesburg event. The presentation stressed the urgency of global problems – especially environmental degradation, and the possible associated increase of resource-based regional wars – and the opportunity offered by the World Summit on SD to refocus the attention of the international community on these issues and generate high-level political commitment to address these challenges through real action. In particular, six key challenges were identified:

- Globalization and its impact on SD, especially preserving important social, cultural and environmental values while benefiting from the positive aspects of globalization;
- Poverty alleviation, sustainable agriculture and food security;

- **Unsustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, especially in industrialized countries, which treat the planet as a "business in liquidation";**
- **The Connection between Environment and Health, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation services;**
- **Energy;**
- **Partnerships and public participation, facilitated through "the empowerment of people through greater political and economic independence and access to information."**

The presentation also offered an overview of the history and current status of preparations of the intergovernmental process leading to WSSD, including information on the key negotiating items on which agreement continues to be elusive. Among the outstanding issues, "good governance" was identified as being of particular relevance to countries with economies in transition. During the open discussion participants expressed a mix of optimism and apprehension about whether WSSD would be able to deliver outcomes that will bring us further on the journey towards SD. Some saw the developments over the past ten years as a pointer to further progress at and beyond Johannesburg; others were concerned about increasing patterns of social polarization and economic underperformance in parts of the region. Among the issues raised were the capacity and coordination problems of countries with economies in transition to have an effective voice in the negotiations of the "Draft Plan of Implementation"; the lack of public awareness of sustainability-related challenges and the need for mobilization through training and public outreach; the streamlining of United Nations institutional mechanisms for policy and programme delivery in the area of SD; and the need to move, through specific cross-boundary partnership initiatives, towards stronger regional cooperation. With respect to the latter, the organizers offered their assistance through their technical cooperation programmes.

VII. Role of governments in regional and international cooperation for integrated environmental and trade policies for sustainable development

During the plenary session IV, the presentation on Trade and SD outlined the role of UNECE in preparing for the WSSD through its ongoing work in the Committee on Environmental Policy and in organizing the regional ministerial preparatory meeting for the WSSD in September 2001, including the Environment for Europe process, which will convene in Kiev in 2003. Major challenges confront the public sector regarding trade and SD, especially the necessity to encourage a holistic approach to these issues. It is difficult to ensure "joined up government" even in the most developed countries. Moreover, a major challenge for public administrations is to create ongoing dialogue with the business community, civil society and local governments to foster significant contribution to the debate on trade and environment (ex. "Green" procurement).

In a global context, the UN Millennium Declaration Goals are adding a further dimension to the economic and social aspects of SD, especially the close links between, e.g. poverty alleviation and water usage, and also strategies for sharing the gains of globalization. Specific governance issues for the forest sector were discussed, including the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (to meet in 2003 in Vienna), and the fully coordinated work programmes of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. Details were given of the UNECE capacity-building project to improve trade and SD of the Russian timber sector. Finally, the links between the WSSD and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in 2003 in Geneva to encourage public access to information, were underlined. The importance of action at the local level was recognized by many countries, considering that electorates are not adequately informed about SD. ICT can help build awareness and promote active networks. The potential contribution of eco-tourism to promoting sustainable economic development; the need to encourage value-added manufacturing based on foreign direct investment, rather than reliance

on the export of non-renewable resources, and the importance of the process of accession to the WTO as a means of encouraging greater coordination in the public administration were stressed. Some representatives of NGOs called for increased focus on social sustainability and the need for the UN to propose more realistic strategies for SD. A representative from Central Europe called for the UN to be more directly involved in dialogue with international financing institutions.

VIII. The Multi-stakeholder Approaches

Also, during the plenary session IV, the theory and practice of multi-stakeholder approaches related to the challenge of SD were introduced to the participants to improve their awareness of this new concept and its impact on governance and public administration. The presentation focused on the rationale for extensive consultations of civil society in the development of SD policy and on the modalities through which such participatory processes become most efficient and equitable. It was pointed out that SD policy is centred around politically charged issues of allocation of rights to resources and distribution of the benefits and costs of development. The resulting prevalence of conflict places negotiation and consultation skills at the centre of any process dealing with the SD problematique. Civil society can provide much of the expertise and creative thinking that is required to identify needs, generate innovative policy options and implement agreements, while governments retain their pre-eminent functions of ultimate decision-making. Common institutional arrangements for decision-making in the public sphere – i.e. the judicial, political and diplomatic processes – were briefly reviewed and arguments were offered for the addition of more informal, consensus-based approaches to complement the existing governance structures. It was pointed out that multi-stakeholder processes allow for joint problem solving and reconciliation between parties as they are entirely based on voluntary participation. Some process design challenges were also reviewed in light of the experience of the Commission on SD; in particular the challenge of interest representation, accountability, type of input sought from civil society, and facilitation.

A **negotiation simulation exercise** was organized to give participants the opportunity to build negotiation skills in a multi-stakeholder context and face, in concrete situations, the trade-offs associated with balancing the economic, environmental, and social pillars of SD.

IX. Civil Society and Governance: Partnership initiatives to strengthen the implementation of [illegible]

The role of DPEPA in strengthening NGOs' capacities within the framework of its technical cooperation programme was explained to the participants. This includes its support to the informal regional network of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (UN-NGO-IRENE) that was launched by the NGO Section of DESA in 2001 to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the civil society. A scheme related to DPEPA strategic plan focusing on its role in strengthening participatory governance and sound public administration for poverty alleviation and SD, taking into account the challenges of the twenty first century and the Millennium Declaration Goals, was also presented to the participants. In this regard, DPEPA' work programme includes especially a capacity-building programme and training activities (workshops and training material) for the region in negotiation skills for diplomats, formulation and implementation of technical cooperation projects for NGOs, strengthening the UN-NGO-IRENE in the region, and support to institution building, public administration reform and human resource development upon request of the countries of the region.

The participants expressed their appreciation for DPEPA's work and underlined their urgent needs in this field and the crucial role of DPEPA in governance and public administration for SD in their region. They also presented and discussed several relevant partnership initiatives between NGOs and governments as well as success stories that could be expanded and adapted to other countries. One regional NGO presented also a sample of a partnership initiative between governments, NGOs and a donor country.

The Greek authorities offered a study tour of the nature reserve in Kerkini, as an illustration of a major achievement in improving a local eco-system.

X. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshop

A. Summary of General Conclusions

1. Participants expressed their gratitude to the United Nations for organizing this important meeting. Bringing together representatives of governments and NGOs with UN representatives represented an excellent step towards strengthening good governance, not only on the national, but also the global levels. This workshop enhanced the exchange of experiences and knowledge on governance, public administration and SD and reinforced dialogue, networking, consensus and partnership initiatives among the participating countries and with the UN. There is an urgent need for such training workshops to strengthen capacities and enhance the skills in this field. This training will also provide participants with tools including training material in integrated methodological approaches and holistic strategies for good governance, poverty alleviation and SD; effective public management of common goods; new technologies adapted to the region including learning via satellite. The media and the business community should also benefit from such capacity-building workshops.

2. Participants agreed on the usefulness of this workshop as a regional forum to exchange experiences and identify potential priority areas for future cooperation. The meeting concluded that cross-sectoral and multisectoral approaches lie at the heart of SD that no single sector can achieve sustainable progress in isolation, as that SD requires simultaneous interventions in a broad range of inter-related sectors. The complexity of organizing such interventions requires a highly developed sensitive and enlightened "governance" structure. The issue of globalization was also mentioned, as there is a need to address its SD implications. The importance of achieving "social consensus", as well as the processes for this end was emphasized. The role of the State to encourage a change in the attitude of the general public and ensuring their participation is also crucial for SD. The importance of peace and respect for human rights were also highlighted, as well as support for regional cooperation in this field. Finally, much evidence emerged from many of the statements, demonstrating that the transition is not merely an economic one but also entailed a broader societal transformation.

3. The concept of SD must be better understood and the goals of SD need to obtain the full support of all governments, as well as civil society and private sector, throughout the region. SD requires a long-term view, as well as broad perspectives on most major issues of policy. Such approaches need to be enhanced in order to overcome the tendency towards short-term fragmentary solutions to problems.

4. All countries have a stake in the success of the Johannesburg Summit. The outcomes of the Summit should more fully reflect the concerns of countries with economies in transition. These include speeding up the transition process, integration into the European and global

economy (membership of WTO, European Union, etc.). For most countries, they also include coping with environmental degradation, growing income disparities, poverty and unemployment, the relative inadequacy of basic social services and public administration. To ensure that the Summit outcomes respond to these concerns, the countries of the region need to consult more closely and coordinate their efforts in developing concerted regional strategies.

5. National strategies of countries in the region should be interlinked and SD-related coordination mechanisms should be developed to reflect the geographical, social, economic and environmental conditions. It is desirable to build on the experience and initiatives of international agencies and programmes (e.g. United Nations, UNDP, UNIDO, OECD, etc.).

6. The special needs of countries with economies in transition were underlined. These include capacity-building in governance and public administration to counter a legacy of planned socialist economy, which causes economic hardship and vulnerability to natural and technology-related disasters. Consequently, sufficient funding is required to shape appropriate public administration, participatory governance and fight against corruption, in order to reduce the gap between developed and developing countries and to accelerate the transition of CIS. The "debt for nature" and "debt for social programmes" schemes should also be considered for funding.

7. Promotion of financial sustainability and operational autonomy of local and SD-related NGOs by diversifying their sources of funding. Enhancing the participation of NGOs of the region in the UN-NGO-IRENE and strengthening their partnership with the ECOSOC

8. Need for cooperation among the countries present at the workshop on capacity-building at central level for developing strategies, coordinating the design of programmes on SD, setting up institutions to deal with cross-sectoral issues, and providing balanced approach for the SD various elements as well as balance between the vertical and horizontal approaches in managing SD.

9. Various peculiar situations affecting SD governance were mentioned such as the catastrophic situation of the Aral Sea Basin which affects all surrounding eco-system and water supply, and the irrational forestry management in some countries of the region. Requests were made for DESA technical cooperation to enhance their governance and management capacity to generate Local Agenda 21 projects, to develop them into bankable propositions, and to expand them in a cross-boundary and regional mode.

10. Implementation of Agenda 21 should be given the highest priority and the role of developed countries in this context should be emphasized. The role of the United Nations system should be reinforced in the follow-up of the Johannesburg Summit.

11. Capacity-building in government and civil society organizations is an essential prerequisite of successful implementation of Agenda 21. It includes institutional reinforcement and reform. It also encompasses HRD and technological progress. Greater attention should be paid to the role of government and private sector in promoting these objectives. HRD is very closely related to education and training. Education in and sensitisation to SD objectives are especially required in the public service at all levels of government, as well as civil society, both of which are engaged in the activities encompassed in Agenda 21.

12. In order to resolve the pending Johannesburg issues, the participants expressed their optimism on the potential outcome of the Summit and stressed the importance of high-level participation.

The meeting underscored the important role of good governance and public administration at the local level in achieving SD. This concern could be supported by Capacity 2015 platform announced during the Bali Preparatory Committee, which is building on UNDP/Capacity 21 Programme and should provide a platform for other partners – countries and international agencies, to join this effort.

In her concluding remarks, the Vice Minister of Turkey congratulated the participants for the success of the Workshop, which had been very well prepared, organized and conducted by DESA. She thanked again DESA for this timely initiative, which had proven beneficial to the whole region, and the Government of Greece for its great hospitality. She invited the participants to a follow-up capacity-building workshop in Istanbul, Turkey that should be organised by DESA shortly after the Johannesburg Summit in the framework of the implementation of its outcomes on governance and public administration for SD.

B. General Recommendations

1. The region should benefit from such very useful UN training workshops to strengthen the capacities and enhance the skills of the participating countries in governance and public administration for SD. The training should also provide them with tools including guidelines and training material especially in integrated methodological approaches and holistic strategies for good governance, poverty alleviation and SD; effective public management of common goods; new technologies adapted to the region including learning via satellite. The media and the business community should also benefit from such capacity-building workshops.

2. Appropriate funding be made available to supplement the national resources in order to implement the goals of SD in the region as well as the proposals described under item X-A 5-6-9, as stated in paragraph 9 of the Millennium Declaration Road Map (A/56/326) outlining the special obligation of "*the more fortunate countries to ensure that the less fortunate have a genuine opportunity to improve their lot*".

3. Additional technical and financial support be provided to the civil society and NGOs of the region in order to strengthen their capacity to participate in the whole process of SD as described under item X-A7

4. Countries should cooperate in exploring the existing opportunities for Type 2 partnerships in capacity-building for SD at central level for the purpose of formulation of adequate national strategies and development of specific programmes that achieve sound economic growth, social development and protection of the natural resources. Such balanced development can only be achieved within a framework of sound institutional arrangements, good governance, human capacity development and broad basic civic participation.

5. The rule of law and sound governance must become the driving force and basic component of an efficient SD implementation.

6. Allocations of seed money be made for the early stages of LA 21 projects to implement the future Capacity 2015 programme, as well as technical support to national public

administrations of the region to enhance their capacities in preparing guidelines and methodologies more integrated and extensive LA 21 projects.

7. Ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on transboundary air and water pollution, including, *inter alia*, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Helsinki Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes should be promoted.

8. Capacity-building to landlocked countries in transition (Armenia, Azerbaijan, FYROM, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) should be promoted to meet their special development needs, to tackle the challenges presented by their geographical handicap, and to ensure the effectiveness of the preparatory process to the International Ministerial Meeting of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to be held in Kazakhstan in 2003.

9. The role of the United Nations including its specialized agencies, funds and programmes should be strengthened as a unique international institutional framework in securing the effective follow-up to Johannesburg and other main conferences held under the UN aegis.

10. The Summit should take into account in the political declaration and the plan of implementation, the unique circumstances and conditions faced by the countries with economies in transition, especially the twin challenges of reforming a previously highly centralised administration apparatus and correcting the effects of a legacy of pervasive environmental pollution and degradation as well as their specific needs.

11. Heads of States and Governments of the region should be encouraged to participate in the Summit to ensure its success in resolving the pending issues.

12. UNDESA should organize in Istanbul, Turkey, a follow-up Workshop on Capacity-Building in Governance and Public Administration for Sustainable Development for the same countries and same participants to implement the Johannesburg Summit recommendations, following the invitation made to the participants by the Turkish Vice Minister.

13. The Report of the Thessaloniki Workshop on Capacity-Building in Governance and Public Administration for Sustainable Development in Countries with Economies in Transition must be presented in Johannesburg Summit to better take into account the specific context and needs of the region and its diverse countries.

Annex

List of Participating Countries and Organizations

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Greece
Hungary
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Slovenia
Tajikistan
The F.Y.R. of Macedonia
Turkey
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Yugoslavia
Economic Commission for Europe
Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States
NISPAcee
OECD
UNDP
United Nations Secretariat

United Nations A/CONF.199/10/Corr.1

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Johannesburg, South Africa
26 August–4 September 2002

Distr.: General
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
General debate

Letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Annex

In the list of participating countries and organizations, add Estonia.

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* A/CONF.199/1.

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United Nations A/CONF.199/11

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Johannesburg, South Africa
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
General debate

Letter dated 13 August 2002 from the Secretary-General of the Association of South-East Asian Nations to the Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

I am pleased to inform you that the World Conference and Exhibition on Land and Forest Fire Hazards was held in Kuala Lumpur from 10 to 12 June 2002. The Conference provided an opportunity for the world community to examine the recurring episodes of land and forest fires and recommended strategies to prevent or minimize hazards arising from such fires on a sustained basis. A statement embodying the recommendations of the Conference is attached (see annex).**

The Ministers responsible for the environment of the 10 member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations considered and endorsed the recommendations and urged that these be given due consideration by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Accordingly, I, on behalf of the Ministers, have the honour to transmit the recommendations for your attention.

May I request that the recommendations be publicized and circulated as a document for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

(*Signed*) Rodolfo C. **Severino**, Jr.

* A/CONF.199/1.
** The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

02-52866 (E) 190802

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2002 from the Secretary-General of the Association of South-East Asian Nations to the Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

STATEMENT TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD LAND AND FOREST FIRE HAZARDS 2002: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, 10-12 JUNE 2002, KUALA LUMPUR

1. Every year, millions of hectares of the world's forests are being consumed by fires, resulting in billions of dollars in fire suppression costs as well as causing tremendous damage to the environment. The ecological and environmental impacts of land and forest fires are manifested in the degradation of the quality of vegetation, erosion of biodiversity, damage to the health of forest ecosystems, loss of wildlife habitat, air, river and estuarine pollution, and overall ecological retrogression. Forest fires contribute to global climate change and warming. Burning of forests also destroys an important sink for atmospheric carbon.

2. There have been five major fire outbreaks in Southeast Asia, with small fires occurring almost annually. The fire episode that hit the ASEAN region during the El Niño drought of 1997 and 1998 has been particularly severe and most damaging in recorded history. The loss in terms of agricultural production, transportation, tourism, and other economic endeavors has been estimated at more than USD 9 billion. The cost to human health, loss of biodiversity, destruction of forests, and general environmental degradation was immeasurable.

3. ASEAN's response was swift. ASEAN Environment Ministers, the Haze Technical Task Force and relevant working groups have been established and been meeting frequently to draw up measures to deal with the problem. ASEAN adopted a Regional Haze Action Plan (RHAP), with corresponding national action plans and implementation measures, prescribing urgent actions on three fronts – monitoring, prevention, and mitigation.

4. The land and forest fire and associated haze is a global issue as it is experienced in other parts of the world and the impacts extend beyond the boundaries of national jurisdiction. Bearing this in mind, the Government of Malaysia supported by the other ASEAN member countries, organized a World Conference and Exhibition on Land and Forest Fire Hazards to provide opportunities for the world community to examine issues of land and forest fires from various perspectives and come up with strategies to prevent or minimize hazards arising from such fires.

5. The Conference witnessed one of ASEAN's most important events, the signing of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution by the ten member countries of ASEAN. The Agreement is one of ASEAN's most significant agreements and a milestone in the regional effort to address transboundary haze pollution. It is the world's first such arrangement binding member states of a regional grouping to tackle transboundary haze pollution arising from land and forest fires. The Agreement reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to take specific actions to prevent and monitor land and forest fires and the resulting haze on a sustained basis. It contains provisions on monitoring, assessment and prevention, technical cooperation and scientific research, mechanisms for coordination, lines of communication, and simplified customs and immigration procedures for disaster relief. The Agreement establishes an ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control to facilitate cooperation and coordination in managing the impact of land and forest fires and haze pollution arising from such fires.

6. The World Conference and Exhibition on Land and Forest Fire Hazards was held on 10-12 June 2002 in Kuala Lumpur and attended by 500 international fire experts, senior government officials, researchers, industries, plantation companies, community leaders, individuals, practitioners, and international organizations to deliberate on issues of land and forest fire hazards and develop approaches and strategies to overcome the hazards. While major participation was from the ASEAN region, there was a good number of participants coming from other regions as well as international organizations around the world.

7. In the context of global, regional and local efforts, the Conference recommended the following areas of priority:

i. Capacity Building

Capacity building is central in the preventive, monitoring and fire suppression efforts to control land and forest fires. In order to strengthen the regional cooperative efforts, training of manpower is required to enhance early warning capabilities, monitoring, information management and dissemination, effective enforcement and fire suppression.

ii. Technology Transfer

Sustained assistance from international organizations, donor countries as well as the private sector is required to support or provide technology transfer in areas that include:

(a) A more precise and reliable prediction and detection of fire and haze using remote sensing and ground surveillance technology/techniques.

(b) Peat land management including effective utilization of peat areas without burning.

(c) Enhancing national capabilities in formulating various applicable measures to prevent land and forest fires.

iii. Health and Environmental Impact

There is a need to study the causes of fires and to assess its potential threat and impact on human health, air quality and greenhouse effect, loss of biodiversity, and damage to ecological system. Collaborative research with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) would enhance the understanding of the nature and particularly the long-term effects of transboundary haze on public health and the measures to be taken in minimizing the problem.

iv. Roles of Stakeholders

Strengthening the involvement of the community, NGOs, private sector, academia and government institutions at local levels is most appropriate and important in program areas such as public education and awareness, exploitation of indigenous knowledge in agriculture practices that would avoid large scale burning and demonstration projects on alternative techniques to open burning.

v. Building Linkages and Partnership

Information sharing and exchange for fire early detection and warning methodologies to address fire management and the associated hazards as well as international cooperative initiatives could be facilitated by the formation of a regional network. Hence a Southeast Asia Network or ASEAN Network should be set up and linked to other regional networks to provide the flow of information and sharing of resources between the local, regional and global users.

vi. Regional Coordination and Mobilization

The establishment of a regional plan and standard operating procedures to effect the mobilization and sharing of resources to monitor, prevent and control land and forest fires should receive highest priority. In order to be prepared for large fire emergencies that may require assistance from outside the region, close cooperation should be established with relevant international entities.

vii. International Policies

The ASEAN countries should be actively involved in the process of developing strategies concerning the reduction of damages caused by land and forest fires for the implementation of the major UN conventions such as *Desertification, Biodiversity and Climate Change, and other arrangements, such as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).*

8. At the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze on 11 June 2002, the ASEAN Environment Ministers emphasized that land and forest fires are worldwide phenomena with increasing incidence not only in developing countries but also in developed countries. The national, regional and global impacts due to biodiversity loss and emissions of greenhouse gases are enormous. The Ministers reiterated their call to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to accord special consideration to this complex issue. The Ministers urged the World Summit on Sustainable Development to demonstrate strong political commitment and agree on concrete targeted measures to tackle this problem on a sustained basis.

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